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2014 QuickCompass of TRICARE Child Beneficiaries: Utilization of Medicaid Waivered Services

Introduction

This Survey Note summarizes findings from the *2014 QuickCompass of TRICARE Child Beneficiaries: Utilization of Medicaid Waivered Services (2014 QTCB)*. The *2014 QTCB* survey was administered to collect data for an annual report submitted by the Foundation for Support of Military Families with Special Needs to the Secretary of Defense and to the Congressional defense committees. The survey focuses on utilization of programs that can serve special needs children in military families. Topics covered include knowledge, access, and use of programs that serve special needs children in military families, including the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO), Medicaid, and Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers. Other content areas include medical case management for children with special needs and military members' decisions that affect benefits. Survey items about program eligibility and use refer to a "child with special needs," defined as the first child with special needs listed by the military sponsor in the *QuickCompass* survey.¹

The *2014 QTCB* was a census of 52,663 active duty members considered eligible based on the presence of special needs children, conducted from March 27, 2014 to May 15, 2014. Completed surveys (defined as 50% or more of the survey questions asked of all participants are answered) were received from 8,127 eligible respondents. The overall weighted response rate for eligibles was 20% which is similar to response rates currently obtained on other DoD surveys conducted by DMDC.

Summary of Results

Population of Military Families with Special Needs Children

- There are an estimated 42,289 military families with children that have special needs based on weighted survey data².
 - Almost half of the military members in these families are in the Army (46%), 72% are enlisted personnel, and most (93%) are married.
 - The majority (73%) of special needs children are between the ages of 4 and 17.
- Overall, the average number of special needs children per family was 1.3.
- The average age of a child with special needs was 10.4 years, and 64% were males.

¹ For purposes of the survey, a child with special needs is defined as a child aged 0-26 with a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition, who also requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that generally required by children of that age.

² The section on Survey Methodology below describes the weighting procedure used for the *2014 QTCB* survey.

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- Over half (54%) of the children designated as a special needs child had special health care needs due to a physical condition(s), 48% due to a behavioral or emotional condition(s), and/or 46% because of a developmental delay. 38% indicated their child had more than one of these conditions.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

- Overall, 97% of military families with a special needs child reported they had heard of the EFMP.
 - 76% of these families reported their child with special needs was eligible for the program.
 - 93% of families with a special needs child eligible for the EFMP indicated that their child was enrolled in the program.
- 64% of families whose children were enrolled in the EFMP were satisfied or very satisfied with the program.

Tricare Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)

- Overall, 37% of military families with a special needs child reported they had heard of the TRICARE ECHO program.
 - 69% of these families indicated their child with special needs was eligible for TRICARE ECHO.
 - 84% of families with a special needs child eligible for TRICARE ECHO reported that their child was enrolled in the program.
- 72% of military families whose child was enrolled in TRICARE ECHO were satisfied or very satisfied with the program.

Medicaid

- 13% reported their special needs child has been enrolled in Medicaid, with 7% currently enrolled in the Medicaid program and 7% who had been previously enrolled but were not currently.
 - Children with special needs who were enrolled in Medicaid received a range of health care services. The most frequently accessed services were clinic services (51%), hospital services (43%), prescription drugs (43%), and physician services (42%).
- 74% reported their special needs child had never been enrolled in Medicaid.
 - Main reasons reported include the family didn't believe their child qualified for Medicaid (34%), didn't know what services and benefits Medicaid would provide

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(30%), didn't want to use Medicaid (13%), and was unsure of how to apply for Medicaid (9%).

Medicaid Home and Community Based (HCBS) Waivers

- Overall, only 7% of military families with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 30% of these military families indicated their child was eligible for the program.
 - 46% of families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was currently enrolled in the program, 14% indicated their child was previously enrolled but not currently and 29% reported their child had never been enrolled.
- 6% of military families with a member in the Army and with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 33% of these Army families indicated their child was eligible for the program.
 - 47% of Army families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was currently enrolled in the program, 10% indicated their child was previously enrolled but not currently enrolled and 30% reported their child had never been enrolled.
- 8% of military families with a member in the Navy and with a special needs child indicated they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 31% of these Navy families reported their child was eligible for the program.
 - 50% of Navy families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was currently enrolled in the program, 17% indicated their child was previously enrolled but not currently enrolled and 27% reported their child had never been enrolled.
- 7% of military families with a member in the Marine Corps and with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 37% of these Marine Corps families reported their child was eligible for the program.
 - Results for enrollment in a Medicaid HCBS waiver are not reportable due to low numbers.
- 8% of military families with a member in the Air Force and with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 24% of these Air Force families indicated their child was eligible for the program.
 - 50% of Air Force families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was currently enrolled in the program, 17% indicated their child was previously enrolled but not currently and 29% reported their child had never been enrolled.

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- 6% of military families with a member who was enlisted and with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 34% of these enlisted families reported their child was eligible for HCBS waivers.
 - 46% of enlisted families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was currently enrolled in the program, 13% indicated their child was previously enrolled but not currently enrolled and 26% reported their child had never been enrolled.
- 9% of military families with a member who was an officer and with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 25% of these officer families reported their child was eligible for HCBS waivers.
 - 47% of officer families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was currently enrolled in the program, 14% indicated their child was previously enrolled but not currently enrolled and 37% reported their child had never been enrolled.
- 7% of military families with a married member and with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 29% of these families reported their child was eligible for HCBS waivers.
 - 46% of families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was currently enrolled in the program, 14% indicated their child was previously enrolled but not currently enrolled and 29% reported their child had never been enrolled.
- 4% of military families with an unmarried member and with a special needs child reported they had heard of Medicaid HCBS waivers.
 - 51% of these families reported their child was eligible for HCBS waivers.
 - 12% of families with a child eligible for HCBS waivers reported their child was previously enrolled but not currently enrolled in the program. Results for currently rolled and never enrolled are not reportable.
- Overall, 21% of military families with a special needs child currently/previously enrolled in a Medicaid HCBS waiver reported they did not have to wait before their child received services, 50% waited 1-12 months, 9% waited 13-24 months, 5% waited 25-48 months, 15% waited more than 48 months.
- Overall, children with special needs who were enrolled in a Medicaid HCBS waiver received a variety of health care services including case management (64%), caregiver support (58%), home based services (53%), equipment (47%), other health and therapeutic services (36%), and nursing (24%).
- Overall, 16% of military families whose child with special needs is currently/previously enrolled in Medicaid or who is currently/previously enrolled in Medicaid HCBS waiver

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reported their child lost Medicaid benefits, including access to a Medicaid waiver due to a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move.

- The loss of Medicaid benefits due to a PCS move by Service was largest for Air Force families (20%), followed by the Marine Corps (18%) , Army (17%) and Navy (8%). The loss was 24% for families of officers and 14% for families of enlisted members.
- The loss of Medicaid benefits due to a PCS move was 17% for families with a married member and 8% for families with an unmarried member.
- Overall, 11% respondents in military families whose child with special needs is currently/previously enrolled in Medicaid or who is currently/previously enrolled in Medicaid HCBS waiver reported they accepted an unaccompanied tour or had gone to a new duty station without their family so that their child with special needs would not lose their Medicaid benefits. This includes access to a Medicaid waiver they were receiving at a previous duty station.

Care Coordination

- Overall, 81% of military families with a special needs child reported their child was not enrolled in a patient centered medical home (PCMH) and only 6% were enrolled
- Overall, 26% of military families with a special needs child reported their child had a medical case manager or care coordinator, while 50% reported they did not.
 - 64% of these military families reported their child receives case management from military treatment facilities, 35% from TRICARE civilian network, 31% from TRICARE ECHO case manager, 7% from Medicaid HCBS waiver, , and 2% from Medicaid.

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Survey Methodology

Sample Design and Selection of the 2014 QTCB

The target population of the 2014 QTCB consisted of active duty members from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force who have a child with special needs between the ages 0-26, defined as a child beneficiary between the ages 0-26 in the Disability Payment System (CDPS) high cost level 1. Data were collected on the Web between March 27 and May 15, 2014.

The 2014 QTCB was a census of 59,413 active duty members who met the above criteria. Members of the sample became ineligible if they self-reported that they were not in a Service as of the first day of the survey, March 27, 2014, or did not have a child with special needs (11.36% of the sample).³ Based on the number of members who self-reported they had no special needs children, the population estimate was adjusted downward to 52,663.

Analytic weights were created to account for varying response rates among population subgroups. Each record was given a sampling weight of 1 due to the equal probability of selection per definition of a census. Then, the sampling weights were adjusted for sample members whose eligibility could not be determined. Next, the eligibility-adjusted weights were adjusted to account for variation among subgroups of differences between survey respondents and eligible sample members who did not return completed questionnaires. The adjusted weights were post-stratified to population totals and variance strata were created for variance estimation.⁴

Completed surveys (defined as 50% or more of the survey questions asked of all participants are answered) were received from 8,127 eligible respondents. The overall weighted response rate for eligibles was 20%.

Margins of Error

The sample design of the 2014 QTCB required weighting as described above to produce population estimates such as percentages.⁵ This means that the typical rules of thumb for interpreting the validity of an estimate, such as the number of respondents, will overstate the reliability of the estimate. For this report, variance estimates were calculated using SUDAAN[®] PROC DESCRIPT.

Reference

DMDC. (2014a). *2014 QuickCompass of TRICARE Child Beneficiaries: Utilization of Medicaid Waivered Services: Statistical Methodology Report* (Report No. 2014-011). Alexandria, VA: DMDC.

³ Although the survey was a census, DMDC uses sampling terminology to indicate that this was a sample where all in the population were included with an equal probability of selection.

⁴ Details on survey methodology are reported in DMDC (2014a).

⁵ As a result of differential weighting, only certain statistical software procedures, such as SUDAAN PROC DESCRIPT, correctly calculate standard errors, variances, or tests of statistical significance for stratified samples. [®]Registered 2004 by Research Triangle Institute, P.O. Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194.

**2014 QuickCompass of TRICARE Child Beneficiaries:
Utilization of Medicaid-Waivered Services**

Prepared by: Dr. Robert Tinney

For further information, see <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/surveys>.

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